**Graduate and Professional Student Association**

The Pennsylvania State University

315 HUB-Robeson Center

University Park, PA 16802

Email: gpsa@psu.edu



GPSA Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, September 3rd, 2014 | 6:30pm | Oak Building

/ EEB

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call (see at bottom)
3. Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, Philip Burlingame’s presentation.

He explains why Andrea Dowager has moved on and that he is an appointment of VP Sims and that this is part of his job responsibility. He’s been here for 15 years and this is his second stint as adviser. 2nd stint. His style of advising is using what he knows, the resources available, being a good liaison, represent grads, and being a conduit to VP Sims and others. Q Kevin Reuning: What of decision-making power of grad students?

A: Up to the grad students to decide about how to exercise it .

Q Kevin Reuning: To be more effective to grad concerns in various capacities, how do you help us achieve university wide goals?

A: by having more meetings with students and understanding student concerns. Other venues such as faculty senate and student leader roundtable (through the president) are helpful. More that student concerns are heard the better.

Q Jesse Scott: What are your personal interests?

A: Personal interest is sustainable issues, food. Plays music. Musical Theater.

Q jeffrey masko: what about the process of appointments, should there be confirmations by the assembly?

A: It up to the assembly, but he sees himself as useful connected to Vice President Sims, enabling a better conversation between admin and the GPSA through special access.

Q Emily Wornell: Are you worried about a conflict of interest?

A: He deals with it all the time. He is already a student advocate as he has been in his earlier stint as adviser. He’s never worried about it or had any in the past.

Anne Weiss: deterioration between students and admin in the last 7 years is apparent, how can we be certain that students are heard?

A: He believes that is not true and thinks dialogue is stronger than it was 7 years back. There’s no lack of dialogue. Andrea did a good job doing that and he hopes to continue. Anne Q: There seems to be a unidirectional policy from Old Main? Maybe if we work with the student concerns and continue the dialogue, we can open new ways in case there is a obstacle.

Kevin Q: It took 8 years to get the ride for 5! Advice to get things moving forward quicker?

A:: Good proposals may take time to implement.

Closing: would like to come back and thanks us for the time we’ve allotted.

Alex Park motions for a voting for approval, second, 14 yeas 0 nays, motion carries and is non-binding in that our failure to approve would not disqualify him from the job.

1. Standing Committee Reports
   1. Internal Development: none
   2. Community Service: none
   3. Student Concerns:

Guest Speaker, Steve Bien-Aime

Will submit his concerns on paper about students’ mental health, suggests that the GPSA fund a coffee hour as other universities have in order to bring student who might not normally meet together in a informal setting instead of mixer type events. Jeffrey: We need to survey what the Grad Student Body finds important and what they think we should spend our budget money.

Nicole Benvenuto: We need better outreach to grad student services as we have many. Yoga is on campus might be helpful for mental health issues.

Enica: suggests a monthly mental health newsletter.

* 1. Grad Cup: Chair-Marika Merritt

needs help, contact her if interested.

* 1. Professional Development: Chair-Marika Merritt Announcement of upcoming dissertation boot camp
  2. Programming Committee: Chair-Marika Merritt

Marika Merritt needs a co-chair and more help. Send her suggestions. Announces the Sept 11 mixer Save the Date

* 1. Publicity and Media: Chair- Benevento

Let Nicole know what to post on Facebook.

* 1. Human Diversity

Needs members

* 1. THON: Chair?

Marika Merritt speaks for Victoria, it’s not sure that she will be back as chair or co-chair so we need more people. Anne Weiss: We only raised 400+ last year. Discussion followed asking why we still did THON and if wasn’t too much time, effort and our funds for so little. Some advocated getting rid of the THON committee.

Enica **Castaneda** motions for a vote: justices want to ban the vote but Luis Ocampo seconds it.

Ayla Gafni: asks if it could be another committee like Community service?

Motion to withdraw the vote by Alex Park, motion seconded: 9 yeas, 3 nays. Motion carries. Table the discussion; withdraw the vote to disband the THON committee.

* 1. Married and Committed Couples Committee

Nathaniel and Alaska seeking help. Enica questions about single parents and a name change to reflect it

1. Report by the President – Danielle C. Rhubart

Powerpoint

1. Report by the Executive Vice President – Douglas Whalen

Powerpoint

Jesse Scott, Kevin Reuning, Mehmet Ali Doke, Renata Horvak declare intention for open delegate seats. Vote for Jesse Scott to take At Large Seat: 10 yeas, 1 against (Ayla Gafni)

1. Report by the Vice President of External Affairs – Anne Weiss

Powerpoint/ Morteza announced as 3rd liaison for heath care committee, Anne resigning to the loss of the GPSA Replacement is yet to be nominated. See Powerpoint.

1. Report by the Secretary – Jeffrey Masko

New format for the newswire is being introduced with a recap of assembly meeting, new roll call being introduced, and suggestion about using the Facebook page to elicit more participation for those who cannot be at the meetings.

1. Report by the Treasurer – Courtney Davis

Updating co-sponsorship guidelines, budget presentation and where should we spend our money due next meeting, funding for committee meetings (food, etc),

1. Report by the Faculty Senate – Enica Castañeda

No faculty meeting yet; questions will come up about the student trustee position

1. Report by Graduate Council: Morteza Karimzadeh

No meeting yet, what is a graduate faculty member and what are fixed employees will be continued from last year.

1. Reports from Liaisons

Moving On assumed by Karen Ertrachter

UPAC Diversity liaison is assumed by Kyler Sherman Wilkens.

Brian: Joint Diversity task force is recharged and he is revisiting membership.

1. Report by the Judiciary

Emily McLaughlin: want to get better accurate numbers of enrolling numbers for delegate count.

1. Report by UPAC: Jesse Scott

Discusses how UPAC is how students fund and help fund other student events like Movin On

1. Open Forum

Enica: Asks about procedures for student concerns, discussion about student activity calendar, Morteza **Karimzadeh** declares for at large delegate. Vote on Morteza **Karimzadeh** is unanimous. Motion for adjournment, 9 yeas, motion carried.

1. Adjourned at 9:45pm

**Save the date:**

* Fall Mixer, Clem’s BBQ (formerly The Autoport): 5:00PM-8:00PM

President- Danielle Rhubart | dcr185@psu.edu Executive Vice President – Doug Whalen | dkw5064@psu.edu

Vice President of External Affairs- Anne Weiss | aew113@psu.edu Treasurer- Courtney Davis | cld303@psu.edu Secretary- Jeffrey Masko | j.alan.masko@gmail.com Advisor – TBD

Vice President of External Affairs Report:

 

 

